**STF-GDS-5-16**

**Question:**

Regarding the recent major damage to electric power facilities caused by wildfires in California and hurricanes in Georgia:

a. Please explain in detail all changes that have been made, are in progress, or will be made to the Company's planning process:
   i. Transmission
   ii. Distribution
   iii. Substation
   iv. Generation
   v. Other

b. Please explain in detail all changes that have been made, are in progress, or will be made to the Company's operations and maintenance process:
   i. Transmission
   ii. Distribution
   iii. Substation
   iv. Generation
   v. Other

**Response:**

The Company has a strong focus on providing a highly reliable generation and power delivery system to supply clean, safe, reliable, and affordable energy for customers. In doing so, the Company evaluates opportunities to mitigate identified risks with the potential to have a high impact to the transmission system. One of the Company's mitigation activities includes the Sea, Lake, and Overland Surges from Hurricanes (SLOSH) program to incorporate design features to mitigate the effects of storm surges. Through this program, the Company has elevated substation control houses in critical substations to the anticipated Category 3 storm surge elevation or 100-year flood plain elevation. Another example includes the addition of burn guards to wood transmission structures in areas identified as a high risk for controlled fires.

Finally, as natural disasters occur, historical data is taken into account as transmission equipment design standards are updated, and the Company's design practice closely follows the industry design requirements. For example, the design practice for new or existing transmission line construction projects uses a standard that either meets or exceeds the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers' National Electric Safety Code ("NESC") strength and loading requirements, including the heavy wind conditions experienced in hurricanes. As data is collected from past weather events, the NESC and the Company's design standards have been modified to change the type of material used for transmission line structures in heavier wind areas (e.g. those in the Coastal areas) so that more steel and concrete structures are installed.

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